Request to lift American sanctions

177. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any request to the new Government in United States headed by Mr. George W. Bush to lift sanctions imposed against India after Pokhran-II tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) which sectors have been hit by the sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The U.S. Administration is well informed of Government's position that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and that these should be completely lifted. The U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated during the confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that the new Administration is engaged in reviewing the sanctions currently in place, including the remaining restrictions against India.

(c) The U.S. has lifted several restrictions imposed on India following the nuclear tests in May, 1998. Restrictions continue to be maintained on U.S. support for non-humanitarian lending by International Financial Institutions to India, certain credit and credit guarantees by U.S. Government agencies to India and on export of defence and "dual use" products and technologies. The Indian economy has shown the resilience to withstand the impact of economic restrictions imposed on India after May, 1998.

Vietnam's stand on permanent seat to India in Security Council

178. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Vietnam the question of India claim for the permanent seat in the Security Council and further democratization of the Council were discussed;

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(b) if so, what was stand and response of Vietnam Governnment thereto; and

(c) what other issues were discussed during the visit and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vietnamese leaders reiterated support for India's candidature for Permanent Membership of UN Security Council.

(c) Among the bilateral issues discussed were trade and investment (especially in oil, gas and IT), Science & Technology, Tourism and cultural cooperation. Among International and regional issues, both sides reiterated support for the recently established Mekong-Ganga cooperation initiative whose next meeting will be hosted in Vietnam. India extended support for Vietnam's effort to join WTO.

Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia and Vietnam

179. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of New Delhi's new thrust on its "Look East" policy, the Prime Minister of India visited both Indonesia and Vietnam in January, 2001 and held discussions with their leaders;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the Prime Minister's discussions with President, Abdurrahman Wahid of Indonesia and Prime Minister, Phan Van Khai of Vietnam; and

(c) whether any agreement were signed by India with these countries, if so, the details thereof, (country-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) PM's visits served the following objective: to reiterate India's commitment to the Look East policy, to obtain first hand